IN THE BEGINNING

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Woodson County Historical Society
Yates Center, Kansas
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Vol. 12 - No. 47 **July, 1979**

Lester A. Harding, Editor

EDITOR'S NOTES —

The Editor did not have any notes that we could think of so decided to use the most of this page telling about a hotel at Piqua. This hotel stood directly across the street from the old bank building. The livery stable on the cover stood just to the south of the Hotel.

The story about these families are on page 20. These pictures were taken about 1911. Within the last year they were reproduced by Lloyd Scheibmeier. An enlarged painted picture of the livery stable hangs in the Farmer's Co-op office at Piqua.

Standing under the Hotel sign is Ben Draper, next to him is his daughter Dorothy, next his wife Mary and his mother-in-law, Amanda Slack.

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WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Organized March, 1965

The March 27th meeting of the Historical Society was held at the Woodson House for the regular dinner meeting. There were 42 members and one guest present. A gift was presented to Mrs. Helen Herring, retiring secretary, for her many years as a dedicated officer of the Historical Society.

Alma Abbott presented the program that consisted of colored slides of her recent to trip to the Orient. It was an interesting program.

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IN MEMORIAN

Maxine Steiner 63 April 17, 1979

Maxine who with her husband Leonard Steiner has been a member of the Woodson County Historical Society for several years. Maxine had been a resident of Yates Center her entire life, being born here. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. "Hi" Nokes.

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The May meeting of the Historical Society was held with the regular dinner meeting at the Woodson House. There 53 present for the Memorial Program. The Memorial Program committee were Avis Ireland, Lettie Streator and Marie Ross, with the Rev. and Mrs. Robert Seals singing "Beyond the Sunset." Rev. and Mrs. Seals later sang several songs that were enjoyed by the group. Mr. Seals is pastor at the First Christian Church.

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The Woodson County Historical Museum was opened for the three days of the Memorial weekend. There were several of the members of the 1929 graduating class of the Yates Center High School took a tour of the Museum on Saturday.

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The Woodson County Museum will be open Thursday through Sunday. Hours 1:30 to 5:00 p.m. will probably close the first part of October.

Join and Support the
Woodson County Historical Society

Life Membership $25.00 Regular Membership $2.00

PLAYED BASEBALL WITH THE CHICAGO WHITE SOX—

For friends and neighbors of Gus Fell in his later years it was hard to realize that he at one time was a member of the Chicago White Sox, playing shortstop. Billy Sunday, noted Evangelist, in later years was playing second base.

Gus Fell, whose name was really August, was born in Germany, 1856. His parents were Frederick and Sophia Becker Fell, who were both natives of Germany.

Coming to America Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Fell, and two sons, Gus and Ferdinand, settled for several years near Chicago. The game of baseball was not so many years old at that time. The young German immigrant boy was so fascinated by the game that he wanted very much to play, practicing whenever he had a chance. However, the elder Mr. Fell thought it was a waste of time and effort to play such a game and prohibited Gus from playing, or so he thought anyway. Gus knew that his name would probably get in the paper so he signed up to play under a different name. By doing that his real name of Fell could not be found on the roster of the Chicago White Sox.

Quite some years ago when Rev. Billy Sunday was holding Evangelistic meetings at Iola, Gus Fell was able to go and meet him after a good many years and to reminiscence about their baseball days together.

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Fell and sons, Gus and Ferdinand came to Kansas and Woodson County in 1888, and purchased Section 5, Twp. 25, Range 13, on December 8, 1888.

This was a rocky section in the hills of the Cedar and Brazil Creek watersheds, eight miles west and a mile north of Yates Center. Here they started the building of their homestead. For awhile they lived a mile or so to the west, on the farm of Gottfrey Miller on upper Brazil Creek, while they quarried and hauled rock to build with.

The house and barn, as well as the fences and corrals were made of this native stone. These buildings were located at the head of a branch of Cedar Creek. In 1891, Gus Fell was married to Miss Julia Kluckhuhn, who was also a native of Germany. Her parents were F. Kluckhuhn and Sofia Berman Kluckhuhn.

Gus and Julia Fell took over the farm with the stone buildings in 1893. Here their two daughters were born, Anna and Freda. Both Anna and Freda taught several terms of school in the rural school of Woodson County.

Sometime in 1912, the Fells purchased a farm along Cedar Creek a mile to the south. The old stone building was fallen down and the cropland turned back to pasture.

At the time of the Fell's lived here a north-south road went by the house, on a direct line from the Kimbell Ranch to the corner just to the west of Batesville. At the present time four miles of that road have been closed.

Around 1905 a Lutheran minister and some members of the Owl Creek Lutheran Church were holding Sunday School on Sunday afternoons at the Knowledge Hill schoolhouse Dist. No. 72, six miles west and a mile north of Yates Center. Through the efforts of the minister and trips to a Lutheran orphanage, a small six-year old boy came to make his home with the Gus Fell family. His name was Jesse Barringer. He lived with the Fells for 12 years. When he was 18 years old Jesse started out on his own, working for various farmers around Yates Center.

Mr. and Mrs. August Fell

Anna Fell was married to Wesley Weide. They had one daughter, Irene, who married Howard Long. In ---- Wesley passed away. A few years later Anna was married to Arthur Bacon. They had two children, Arthur Elmer and ~~Irene~~ Alice Bacon. Arthur Elmer married Margaret Ann Randall.

Freda married Roy Burke, 1924. They lived on different farms until moving to Yates Center in 1976.

LIBERTY FOOTBALL TEAM OF 1896-'97 —

The Liberty football team derived its name from Liberty township, in which most of the players lived. Their playing field was along the present US-75 six miles north of Yates Center on the west side of the road where the large hay barn is. The Matt Parks home was directly across the road to the east. The playing field was on what was known as the Alf Brown meadow.

The regulation size of the playing field was about the same as now but the goal posts were on the goal line. Most of the football teams in this part of the country at that time were town or community teams. Yates Center had a team with a paid coach by the name of Griffith. Hayes Coe had played on the Yates Center team as half back and helped organize the Liberty team. He was their coach as well as their captain.

The Liberty team was organized in 1896, playing that year and in 1897.

The Liberty Football team as shown in this picture were standing in back row, left to right: Scott Spencer, Bert Coe, Dan Wilkerson, Bert Manifold, Warnie Arnold, Art Coe, Ray Brown, Walter Spencer. Sitting in the front row: Clyde Brown, Shelby McPheters, Orrin Rose, Bennett Wilkerson, Hayes Coe and Walter DeSpain. Others not in the picture, but played on the team some at different times were: Cleo Jackson, Will Manifold, Bud (Bert) Park, George Harding,

Sam Lovell, Curt Harding, George Manifold, Rev. L.S. Jones. Some of these latter just played in practice games. However, as there were not many teams for them to play a good many practice games were played. The uniforms as shown in the picture were not all alike and not all had padding. Not all had suits and in some cases it was possible that a player with more ability stayed on the sidelines, because of the lack of protection of a suit.

The players were very proud of their suits as they were all home made by their mothers or wives. Oliver Lamborn played in one practice game. He was one of the few young men in those days to carry a watch. The watch was ruined in that practice game and that ended Lamborn's football career.

The regular players and positions were: Orrin C. Rose, center; Bennett Wilkerson, left guard; Warnie Arnold, left tackle; Scott Spencer, left end; Shelby McPheeters, right guard; Art Coe, right tackle; Bert Manifold, right end; Bert Coe, at quarterback; Walter Spencer, and Hayes Coe, halfbacks and Walter DeSpain as fullback.

The game of football has undergone many changes since the Liberty team days. The Liberty team used the "flying wedge" which was outlawed by rules soon afterward, because of more chance of injury. It was rather dangerous for one man to try and stop three or four men all in contact with pushing allowed. The rule against piling on had not been evolved and the tackling zone was the length of the body from head to foot. The "T" formation was the only one they used; the ball always passed to the quarterback, except on the try for the goal. The rule against unnecessary roughness was rigidly enforced. The officials were a referee and a timekeeper, generally from Yates Center. The ball was larger and less pointed than the one used now, and was too large to grip with one hand.

The picture was taken just after they had played their first matched game, and had taken a 7 to 0 beating. This was the only time they were defeated in the two years. We believe that it was the Neosho Falls team that beat them. The next year, 1897, playing at Neosho Falls, the Liberty team defeated the Falls team by a score of 7 to 0.

During this game a man in the crowd for some reason ran out on the field and slugged Shelby McPheeters on the back of the head turned and ran back into the crowd. During the balance of the game, perhaps 10 or 15 minutes Shelby played his usual game. An hour or

so after the end of the game Shelby asked someone what the final score was. He had played the latter part of the game without knowing what was going on around him.

Shelby McPheeters seemed to be rather unlucky on another occasion. While playing a practice game on Christmas, Curt Harding was filling in on one side. He had never played football and did not know the rudiments of the game, but knew that in a scrimmage when you tackled a player he was supposed to go down. As Uncle Curt tackled a player who wouldn't go down, he grabbed the fellow and whirled him over his (Uncle Curt's) head. As the fellow flew through the air his heel caught Shelby McPheeters on the nose, peeling the hide off it.

I heard my father, George Harding tell of playing a practice game on the Liberty team. He had a boil on his arm and in a scrimmage this boil got a hard bump. He became sick and dizzy so he left the line and ran to the Parks place across the road where the well was. As he was crawling through the fence he could see Scott Spencer running for the well also, so they pumped water on each other before they could go back to play.

The two halfbacks, Hayes Coe and Walter Spencer later played football at Kansas State College. Hayes was a powerful runner and consistant ground gainer. While not large, Walter Spencer was very fast. Scott Spencer was the youngest on the team and while he played end he sometimes carried the ball. Being fast he often surprised his opponents by his ability to slip past them.

End of the year Liberty defeated Yates Center by a score of 14 to 7. Yates Center had beaten Burlington, Fredonia, Eureka and ElDorado that season, so this left the boys from Liberty feeling very cocky and proud as well as they should be. As near as we have been able to find out this was the only organized football team to play in this part of the county.

Orrin Rose played center and was also the business manager. Sam Lovell was called the "pug-nosed slugger from Liberty." Sam was a small well built fellow and had a way of using his right fist in a cross over under his other arm that sometimes caught an opponent off guard.

We can remember a pair of these football pants that my father George Harding had. They were made of red material and had some padding stitched along the front of them, evidently made by my mother.

GREGORY VALLEY —

Although Henry J. Gregory came to this valley and the vicinity of the old town of Belmont, he never got a deed to his farm in Gregory Valley until about eight years later.

Henry J. Gregory was born in Obeds County, Tennessee, January 27, 1827. When he was two or three years old, his parents moved to Crawfordsville, Indiana. Here he grew to manhood, worked on a farm and received such meager education as the subscription schools at that time afforded. Mr. Gregory was united in marriage to Sarah S. Allison in 1848, and the same year moved to Wapello County, Iowa. In 1854 he made a trip to California and remained there for three years and returned to Iowa. In the summer of 1857, he came to Kansas with his family and settled in Coffey County, near Ottumwa on the Neosho River. In the fall of that year Gregory came to Belmont township in Woodson County, and decided that this was the place. In the spring of 1858, the Gregory family with their ox teams and wagons came to the little settlement of Belmont.

The settlement of Belmont had been started just before Mr. Gregory came here in the fall of 1857. The year before B.F. Foster had come here as a trader with the Great and Little Osage Indian tribes. His trading post and store and the old Belmont House from which the settlement derived its name were built by Foster, and was built on the Fifth Standard Parallel South that had been the first line surveyed across the county the year that Foster came here. The first doctors in the county, two brothers, John and L. Dunn were also at Belmont in 1857.

The valley that H.J. Gregory built his log cabin in was not the Gregory, but was the stream about a mile north of Gregory Valley. In April 10, 1863, Henry J. Gregory received a patent for the northeast quarter of Section 32, township 25, Range 15. In the very northeast corner of this 160 acres and sometime later the Belmont School Dist. No. 58 was built in the extreme northwest corner of the 160 acres. The Gregory log cabin was about three-quarter mile north of the Belmont corner where the main part of the town was, and some less from where the fort or horse corral was built.

However, Henry J. Gregory was active in the affairs of Belmont and Woodson County.

On October 14, 1859, Peter Kennedy of Belmont, Woodson County, Kansas Territory, died and evidently had no will nor any relation nearby. The following men and neighbors were appointed by the Probate Judge John Woolman of Neosho Falls to appraise his property and assist in his burial, H. J. Gregory, Jonathan Foster and N. J. Spillman. H. J. Gregory furnished the material to build the coffin. He received $1.70, for the 70 feet of lumber used to build it.

We have heard and read so much about Fort Belmont, but it has been very difficult for anyone to really tell or describe the actual fort. In an issue of the Toronto Republican of July 11, 1912, H. J. Gregory gave an interview to the editor, E. E. Kelley and told the following about the fort. "Fort Belmont itself was built about 1861 and H. J. Gregory helped build it. It was built of long pens filled with dirt, the pens were arranged in a circle with a house in the center. He also stated that no soldiers were ever in it.

On August 19, 1865, Henry J. Gregory was appointed as postmaster of Belmont. He was postmaster until January 7, 1867. The years from 1865 through 1870 were very busy years for Gregory. In 1866, while still postmaster he was elected the House of Representatives from Woodson County, he was re-elected in 1869 for the same office. Also in 1867, H. J. Gregory was elected as one of the County Commissioners for two years.

About the same time that H. J. Gregory got the deed or patent for his homestead, Rachel Allison got the patent for the northwest quarter of section 9, Twp. 26, Range 15. This was in 1863. Rachel evidently was the mother of Sarah S., the wife of Henry J. Gregory for in 1865 when Rachel Allison was in the process of selling her claim to Nathan L. Quisenberry, Sarah S. Gregory had to sign a document that she was well acquainted with Rachel Allison and that she was a widow.

In Sept. 1866, Quisenberry sold this quarter section to Henry J. Gregory. That was when it began to be known as Gregory Valley. This valley was a branch of Big Sandy Creek that ran to the northeast of the main creek. The headwater of streams that start mostly in sections 4 and 9.

It is also interesting to note that when Company G, 16th Reg. Kansas State Militia, was organized and sworn in at Belmont, October 14, 1863, that H. J. Gregory was 1st Sergt. and N. Quisenberry as 2nd Sergt.

The 1860 census, Belmont township gives:
Gregorie, Henry 33, birthplace-Tennessee
Gregorie, Sarah 32, Birthplace-Indiana
Gregorie, James 11, Birthplace-Iowa
Gregorie, Mary 9, Birthplace-Iowa
Gregorie, John 1, Birthplace-Kansas
Gregorie, James 22, Birthplace-Tennessee
Gregorie, Nancy 19, Birthplace-Kentucky

It is not certain just who this latter James was, but believed to be a brother of H. J. Gregory, and his wife Nancy.

The John named above must have been an error or else his name was changed soon after this census, for this had to be the boy named Cortes Eugene Gregory, born at Old Belmont, December 25, 1858. He was the last of a family of eight children. According to the First Biennial Report of the State Board of Agriculture, published in 1878, Cortes would have been the third child born in Woodson County. The first birth was Eliza Jane Tassel, the second was May Humphrey, Liberty Township, in 1858.

Cortes Eugene Gregory grew up in the Gregory Valley. He was married to Margaret E. Daniel Smith, April 1, 1889 at the Daniel home on Big Sandy by the Elder G. W. Rogers. They were the parents of two sons, H. Ward and James F. Gregory, and a daughter, Juanita B., who married Floyd Puckett.

Cort as he was known with his family moved to Hamilton County in 1917, later moving into Syracuse, where he and his wife are buried. She dying in 1933 and Cortes in 1942.

* * * * * *

James A. Gregory, was nine years old when he with his parents came to Woodson County. He grew up in Gregory Valley and lived his entire life along the branches of Big Sandy Creek.

James A. Gregory was married to Miss Lucinda Barritt. They had one daughter, Ella Gregory.

We could not find any more about Mary Gregory, but she evidently died as a young girl.

Henry J. Gregory had belonged to the Christian Church since a young main in Indiana. When the first Christian Church was organized in Yates Center, Henry J. Gregory and wife were among the charter members. The stone building that is now the Woodson County Historical Museum, was started by the Christian congregation as their church was started in the fall of 1877. However, before the church building was completed in 1878, Mr. Gregory left Woodson County and moved to Chautauqua County, where he lived for about four years before returning to the Big Sandy community in Woodson County.

Mr. Gregory made his home for several years with his sons, James and Cort E. Gregory.

Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Gregory were the parents of eight children, but only three ever lived in Gregory Valley. Mrs. Gregory passed away in 1885. Mr. Gregory died at the home of his brother Milton at Independence, Kansas. He died in December, 1913, and was buried in Crawford County, where his brother Alexander Gregory lived.

This picture was taken of Miss Della Gregory when a young lady living with her parents along Big Sandy Creek. Della taught several terms of school in the rural schools of Woodson County. When her father was elected to the office of Probate Judge of Woodson County in 1902, Della moved to Yates Center with her parents. Here she assisted her father in his work in the courthouse. She lived with her parents until they passed away. James Alexander died Nov. 28, 1827, at age 79 years. Lucinda died Aug. 8, 1936, at age 85. Della the last of the Gregory family in Woodson County spent her remaining life in Yates Center. She passed away August 13, 1954, at age 84. They are all three buried in the Yates Center Cemetery.

WESLEY CHAPEL METHODIST CHURCH —

On a high hill overlooking the Duck Creek Valley eleven miles north and four miles west from Yates Center on the Coffey County side of the line stood the Wesley Chapel Church for quite a number of years. Situated as it was on the hill on the Woodson-Coffey county line, it was a landmark for around 38 years until it was sold and moved away in 1934.

For a good many years the Wesley Chapel Church was a religious center for that community, but like most country churches it is now just a sacred memory for those who attended Sunday School and church there.

Early day services were held in various schoolhouses but the need arose for a church in the Duck Creek and Big Creek vicinities. Rev. Lee Jones was sent by the Methodist Conference to this community for the purpose of organizing a church.

On an August afternoon in 1896, a meeting was held in the Pleasant Valley (Bell Racket) District No. 59 schoolhouse for the purpose of organizing and building a church. While a number of denominations were represented at this meeting it was decided to build a church of the Methodist denomination. Subscriptions were taken for the building of a church. A. E. Tebben donated an acre of land to build the church upon.

A board of trustees were elected as follows: L. T. Montgomery, chairman; George Z. Naylor, secretary; A. E. Tebben, treasurer; other trustees were John Mozingo, J. U. Raber, Samuel Rudolph and John Dressler.

Cornelius Klingenburg was foreman for the building of the foundation and it was completed in September. Dell Parke, who lived six miles north of Yates Center, was chosen as head carpenter. The building was started in October but bad weather set in and it was not completed that winter. In April, 1897 work again was started and the building completed in June. George A. Harding did the plastering and Curt B. Harding painted the building.

The boys of the neighborhood were put to work digging postholes, setting the posts and bolted rails on them for the hitching rack for the horses that went nearly around the acre of land.

In September, 1897, just a year after it was started the church was dedicated to the Methodist Conference with the usual ceremonies. There was a large crowd present for the all day meeting with a basket dinner at noon. While Rev. Lee Jones was the building pastor he was transferred to another charge before the building was completed but was present for the dedication. Rev. E. L. Martin was pastor at the time of dedication. The church was supported by almost the entire community, made a rapid growth and became not

only a place to worship but became a community center for that part of the country.

When built the church was in the Coloma Circuit, which included the Methodist churches at Keck, Finney and Pleasant View. In later years it was transferred to the Gridley Circuit. In the transferring to another district in some manner the secretary and record books became lost, but the various families that contributed to the building, attended and otherwise supported this new church from along Duck Creek to the south and Big Creek to the north were: A. E. Tebben, George Z. Naylor, John Mozingo, David Croyle, Ike Morrey, Aleck Hetzel, Cornelius Klingenberg, Jacob Smith, Zion Held, Boone Williams, Frank Guy, W. F. Kinyon, Ira Martin, Wm. Randall, Clarence Kinyon, Will Kinyon, T. J. Essax, John Dressler, J. U. Raber, Sam Rudolph, Levering Bros., L. T. Montgomery, Charles Greene, Fred Whiteford, A. E. McCartney, T. Q. Allen, J. E. Etter, Jack Musgrove, George Payne, Israel Merrill, M. D. Sturdivan, Wm. Ward, Levi Newland, Charles Weide, John Yoho, Robert Sivert, Dell Hearn, J. L. Redick, Jim Caine, James McLean, J. H. Sturdivan, James Deakin.

In later years as the writer can well remember were, the families of J. L. Redick, Dick Reed, John Reed, M. D. Sturdivan, Harry Sturdivan, Dan Merrill, Wm. Merrill, David Bradford, Mort Simpson, Sam L. Delaughter. No doubt names will be missed that should be mentioned.

At the time it was decided to build a church Sunday school and church was being held in the Pleasant Valley (Dist. #59) schoolhouse. Cornelius Klingenberg was the Sunday school superintendent at the time the church was built. After the church was built John Mozingo was the first superintendent. Other Sunday school superintendents were: T. L. Montgomery, John Dressler, M. D. Sturdivan, A.E. Tebben, Harry Sturdivan. Here again names may be missed that should be mentioned, but for lack of records, these were given from memory from one who had quite a part in this church from the beginning and was one of the directors when the church was sold and told to this writer several years ago. Harry Sturdivan, who spent almost his entire life along Duck Creek about a half mile from the church.

A young people's Sunday school class at Wesley Chapel around 1914-15. Boys in the back row were: Glenn Guy, Ray Redick, Harrison Varvel, Walter Hearn, Ray Varvel. Girls standing: ---- Imogene Massey, Stella Massey, Violet Sturdivan, ---- Barnett. Sitting are: Abbey Steele, Vivian Jasper, Autumn Sturdivan, and Maude (Mrs. Harry) Sturdivan, teacher.

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Pastors at Wesley Chapel —

Rev. L.S. Jones was the building pastor, Rev. Martin finished the church, Rev. Stranahan was an older man, preached good sermons and did a lot of good. Rev. E.L. Jones a brother of the first pastor, Rev. Leonard Wood, drove a spotted horse. He had been a left handed blacksmith. Was converted, studied and became a good preacher. Rev. Clendening was a middle age man, Rev. McKnight, a young preacher just out of school, Rev. Leonard Oeschli, a student at Baker University.

Rev. Chester Miles, another student; Rev. Charles Hudson, a student and a single man. He was a live wire and preached good sermons. He had no horse, but rode a bicycle.

Rev. John N. Ashley was a young man just out of college and was a good minister. Also held tent meetings each summer. Next was E.R. Foiler, followed by Rev. Charles Franks.

Rev. Harry Webster, was raised around Rose and Yates Center, moved on to the Kinyon farm on Duck Creek and preached at Wesley Chapel for awhile.

Rev. Charles Meeder, pastor at the Turkey Creek Evangelical Church, drove to the Wesley Chapel Church and preached occasionally.

At this time this church was put in the Gridley Charge along with Gridley, Crotty and Prairie Chapel Methodist churches. The pastor at that time was H.K. Sutton. Other preachers following were, Rev. Drew Hammen, Rev. Wright, Rev. James Tweed. Rev. T.Z. Alsbury was the last pastor.

The church situated as it was on that high and windy hill had become quite a landmark was sold and moved away. Relatives of some of the founders still live in Woodson County, but none in that vicinity.

Picture of the large Ladies Aid Circle at Wesley Chapel. Several of these ladies lived in Coffey County in the area from the church to along Big Creek. Back row, left to right, Mrs. D. Reed, Ella Varvel, unknown, Mrs. Levering, Mrs. Frank Guy, Mary Mozingo, Ida (Mrs. M.D.) Sturdivan, Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Barngrover, Dora (Mrs. Geo.) Naylor, Maggie (Mrs. Charles) Steele. Front row left to right. Grace (Mrs. Joe) Deakins, Cora Thompson, Mary (Mrs. Will) Kinyon, Maude (Mrs. Dan) Merrill, Maude (Mrs. Harry) Sturdivan, Dora (Mrs. Will) Merrill, Cora (Mrs. Dick) Reed, Stella (Mrs. Dell) Hearn, unknown, Grandma, Mrs. Catherine Hearn. (Some of these names may be wrong, but we have tried to identify each one.)

ATHLETICS - YATES CENTER HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS —

(Taken from "The Center", Junior Number, April 1907. Published by the students of the Yates Center Public Schools. We will try and show the difference in girls' basketball team of 72 years.)

ALTOONA and RETURN - On Saturday, March 16th, a small crowd, consisting of Prof. Gregory, the Supt. Miss Melton, our principal, the Y.C.H.S. girls basketball team and four or five rooters, gathered at the Missouri-Pacific depot to take the 3:30 train for Altoona, where the girls had matched a game with a club team.

The train was a trifle late, but about 4:39 we reached Altoona, and immediately went to the hotel, where the girls left their suitcases.

With Mr. Woodson, the Altoona team's manager, and a few Altoona girls as our guides, we took in a part of the town until suppertime.

The game was scheduled for 8:30, but there was a show in town and most of the people were going to attend the basketball game, so they began the game early and held off the show till late, thus both had good houses.

In the first half Yates Center didn't seem to hold their own as Altoona stood: Miss McKind 1 goal, Miss Reid 6 goals and 3 free throws. Yates Center stood: Miss Weide 2 goals, and Miss Camac 3 goals, but in the last half Altoona seemed to fall down and Y.C. whipped up a little, with Miss Schlicting in as guard in place of Miss Baursfeld, who was having an "off night", and at the end of the game the standing was Altoona: Miss McKind 2 goals and Miss Reid 2 goals, and Yates Center; Miss Weide 4 goals and Miss Camac 3 goals, making the final score 25 to 20 in favor of Altoona.

The officials were: Referee, Prof. Gregory Y.C.H.S., Umpire, Mr. Woodson, Altoona.

The principle features of the game were on the part of Altoona, the unexcelled goal throwing of Miss Reid in the first half; on the part of Yates Center, the excellent guarding of Miss Robson and Miss Schlicting, the way Miss Camac held on to the ball and the line team work of Miss Schlicting and Miss Camac.

The girls were taken to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Richardson to change their apparel, both before and after the game.

Eureka and Return - Just a week later.

The girls basketball team of the Yates Center High School, accompanied by a few students and Prof. Gregory, referee and Miss Carpenter, went to Eureka Saturday, March 23rd, where they played the Eureka High School with the result that the E.H.S. won the game by a score of 14 to 10, with 15 minute halves and 10 minute between.

The lineup was as follows:

Yates Center	Position	Eureka
Warren	Center	Hodgson
Nanninga		Wolf
Naylor	Forwards	Long
Schlicting		Hamilton
Weide	Guards	Tarrance

The principle features of the game were, on the part of Yates Center, the excellent guarding of Miss Schlicting and Miss Weide, and on the part of Eureka, the good work of Miss Wolf.

Eureka has a very good basketball team but they are not used to playing with the lines and so are at somewhat of a disadvantage and their guards (over guards a good deal) making a good many fouls.

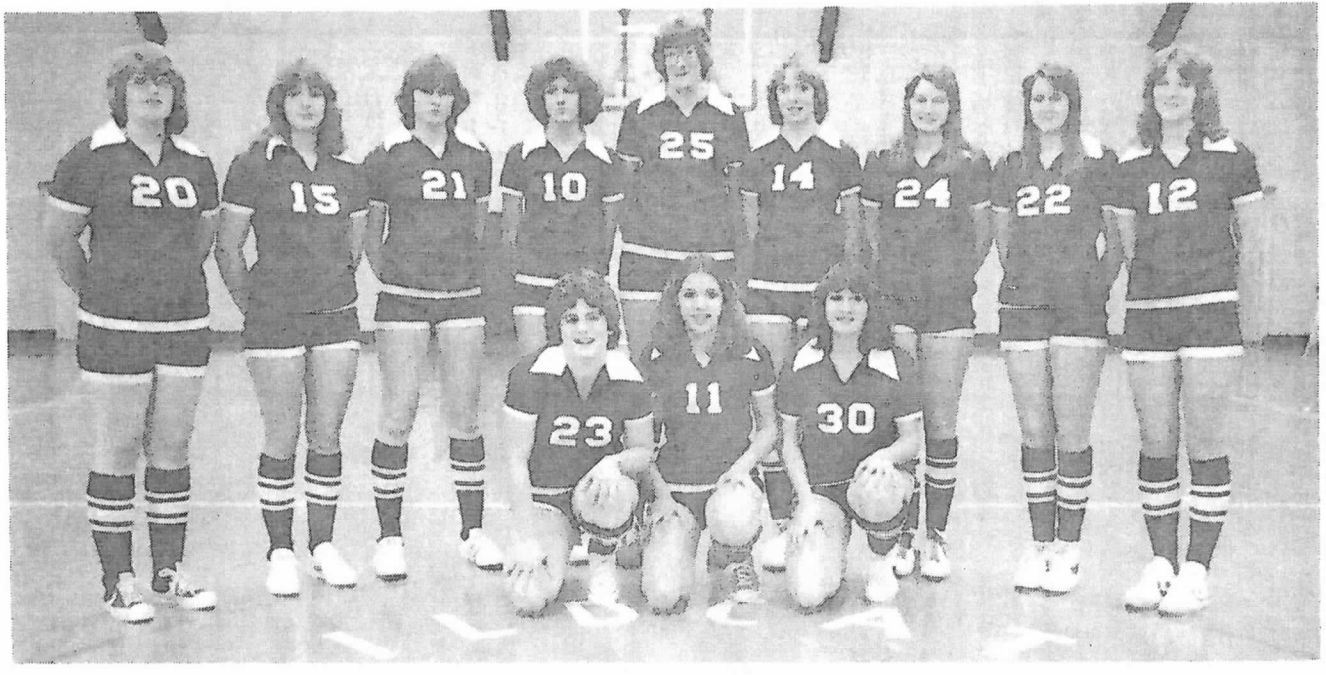
The game was played in the school "gym" and the Yates Center girls were not used to playing "hide-and-seek" around the six posts which are in the middle of the floor nor were they accustomed to crawl on hands and knees to avoid the low ceiling, which is very noticeable on one side of the room.

Outside of these objections the floor is a very good one, but put strangers among these posts and under that ceiling, and see if they do much better than on a clean floor.

The Yates Center players and subs and also Miss Carpenter, the chaperone, and Prof. Gregory, the referee were taken to the private homes of the Eureka team and after the game we were all taken to the fine homes of Eureka and were entertained very pleasantly until about train time. The Eureka people served refreshments during the evening.

The night train which is due 12:20, was about thirty minutes late, but once on board our defeat was forgotten in the attempt to stay awake and to see that all of our crowd did the same.

G.E.S.



The Y.C.H.S. Basketball Girls' Team of 1979. Standing left to right Dianne McCullough, Annette Sowders, Jana Porter, Sherri Trendel, Geri Guatney, Teri Lukens, Marilyn McKinsey, Carolyn McKinsey, Leslie Oakes. Girls kneeling are Sheryl Chambers, Collette Karmen and Jodie Heiman.

THE YATES CENTER HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM OF 1908 —

The girls' basketball team of 1908, pictured left to right are Nina (Baursfeld) Conger, Mary (Robson) Cox, Nita (Weide) Nanninga, Kate (Camac) Martin-Roethel, Ida (Robson) Cox, Jesse (Naylor) Harding.

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There is a great contrast between the Y.C.H.S. Girls' Teams of 1907-08 and the 1979 team, in playing, scoring, mode of clothing, transportation and the spectators and rooters following the teams.

(Quoting from the Yates Center High School "Cat Tales" of April 2, 1979.)

Four years ago, in 1975 the Yates Center H.S. girls basketball team went to the Kansas State Championships. This year the girls made it to the State again placing 4th in the state, tying with Lindsburg for the best record for Class 3A, being 22-3. The girls were the undefeated Tri-Valley Champs.

Marilyn McKinsey was named unanimous all Tri-Valley League for the second year in a row. Jana Porter was also chosen All Tri-Valley. Two other players from the Y.C. Girls team that were voted Honorable Mention All Tri-Valley were Jerrie Guatney and Caroline McKinsey.

Jack Steiner has been head coach of the girls' basketball team for several years.

The Yates Center Girls Wildcat team had quite a following at all games. In the final game at Hutchinson, a large caravan of cars and school bus making the trip.

In the final game at Hutchinson the Y.C. Wildcats were defeated by the Hillsboro team by a score of 50 to 38. In this scoring Geri Guatney led the team with 11 points, followed by Marilyn McKinsey with 10, Sherri Trendel, 5 points, Teri Lukens 4; Diane McCullough 4, Jana Porter 4 points.

RAN LIVERY STABLE AND HOTEL AT PIQUA, KANSAS —

The two men in the cover picture are Ben Draper and his father-in-law Theodore Slack. The picture was taken around 1911, when Piqua was a thriving town with two railroads crossing at edge of the town, (Missouri-Pacific and the M.K.T. Railroad).

At the time the picture was taken, Ben Draper and wife Mary operated the hotel and Theodore Slack the livery stable.

Theodore M. Slack was perhaps the first of the two men to come to Woodson County. He was born in Henry County, Ohio, March 1, 1847. His parents were Philip and Catherine Slack. As a boy he moved with his parents to Illinois. Here he met and married Miss Amanda Beeler of Pontiac, Ill. They had six children, Mary, Elmer, John, Charley, George and Arthur.

The slack family came to Kansas in 1880, farming near Ottawa for awhile, and coming on to Woodson County in1883, and purchased a farm just north of Piqua. The parents of Theodore Slack came to Woodson County the following year, 1884, moving onto a farm one mile north of Piqua.

Theodore M. Slack started in with a raw eighty acre farm, improved that and added two hundred and forty acres later. He raised horses, mules and cattle. For the present we will only tell about one of the children of Theodore and Amanda Slack. That will be Mary, who married Ben Draper.

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Benjamin Draper was born in Wichita, Kansas in 1864. He came with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Draper to Coffey County and grew up in the vicinity of LeRoy.

In 1894, Ben Draper and Miss Mary Slack were married. Their married life was in farming on various farms in the Piqua and Neosho Falls vicinities. He also kept good horses and did considerable hauling with horses.

They were the parents of four children, Jessie, Albert, Pearl and Dorothy.

Albert "Cap" Draper farmed in the Piqua-Neosho Falls area for several years.

Ben Draper died in September, 1955.

But the one we will follow and write about is Pearl. Pearl Draper was married to David Henry. Their children were Mary, Blanche, David, Pearl, Ben, Helen.

DURAND HOTEL —

The hotel was fairly large with 18 rooms, containing 27 beds upstairs, five bedrooms downstairs, besides the large kitchen, dining hall, recreation room, storeroom and bath. There was a public bathroom upstairs.

It is believed that Jim Harrod and wife Mattie operated this hotel a longer time than any other. The Van Noy concern that had built the hotel for the MOP had the hotel for awhile and brought in their own managers. Other operators were a family named West, Jim Gardner, Culp, Cotton. The Oscar Brandon family had the hotel in 1922 and again around 1940-41.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed O'Brian bought the business from the Brandon's in 1941. During World War II, there were many troop trains coming through Durand. The O'Brians had eight helpers that worked different shifts for the 24 hour period. Most of the time the rooms would all be full as the counter in the dining room. Many of the troop trains would stop over making the O'Brians a lot of work. On one particular day the O'Brians fed over 300 soldiers. O'Brians would stay about six months at a time, then sell out and come back later and buy back.

In 1944 Mrs. Elmer Newman bought from the O'Briens and kept it for awhile. Troop trains and much other travel came through. Sometimes the rooms would all be full and the people would leave and the beds have to be made over for more all in one day. The cooking was done on a large wood or coal stove.

During the flood of 1951 the hotel was operated by Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Gray. During the high water in July along several rivers, many trains were re-routed through Durand. This brought more trains and more people to stop at the hotel. One particular morning the Grays fixed breakfast for 360 people, using 30 dozen eggs and quite an amount of ham, and around 25 pounds of beans were cooked. On one occasion a Rock Island Special had been re-routed each day through Durand and the railway people wanted meals for 360 people on the train. This had to be turned down because around 300 people had already been served. It was in 1951 that the old coal stove with its double cast iron griddle was changed to propane.

A Mrs. Passwater replaced Mrs. Newman who came back in 1952. Mrs. Hale Robson was the next operator of the hotel and eating house. Her son Richard Robson and wife assisted in this operation. The Robsons had the hotel from June of 1964 until it burned, Thursday, September 23, 1965. The Robsons were gone when the fire occurred. One man upstairs sleeping wakened in time to get out and sound the alarm. The fire evidently started in the large basement and soon gained headway in the wooden structure.

Sometime in the 1920's or perhaps when the hotel was dedicated, employees of the Missouri Pacific purchased a large American flag. A flag pole was erected near the hotel and the flag raising was observed by a large crowd assembled there for a dinner and program.

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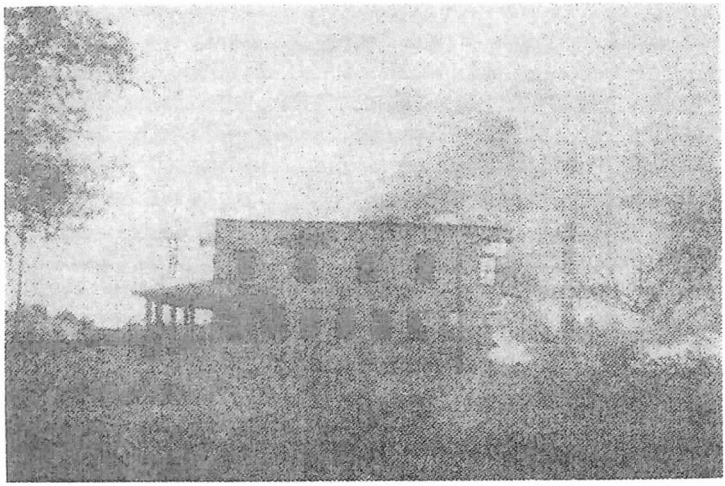
Depot at Durand with freight car derailed to the right of the depot. Several other cars left the track to the north of the depot at that time.

Picture taken as the hotel was burning, September 23, 1965.



PATRONS OF WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

Brown's Western Auto
Milton & Virginia Schornick
Kenneth & Barbara Stockebrand
John V. Glades Agency
Street Abstract Co. Inc.
State Exchange Bank
Self Service Grocery
Krueger's Variety & Dry Goods
HiWay Food Basket
Piqua Farmer's Co-op
Gaulding Oil Co.
Donald E. Ward
Morton Equipment Co.
Swope & Son Implement Co.
Campbell Plumbing & Electric
Clyde Hill
Cantrell Pontiac-Buick
Paul C. Laidlaw
Rogers Bros. Garage
Artex Manufacturing Co.
J. C. Schnell
Gambles Hardware & Home Furnishings
Superior Building Supply, Inc.
Glen Shaw
Pringle Ranch, J.W. & J. Richards
Herring Hardware & Supply
Kimbell Ranch-Ed Kimbell
Daylight Donut Shop
Edwin H. Bideau Associated Agency, Chanute
First National Bank, Toronto
Blackjack Cattle Co., Inc.
Yates Center Elevator
Wilma Mark
Jasper's Shopping Spot
Bill Taylor-Gen. Agent Woodson Co. Farm Bureau
Atkin Clinic
Daly Western Supply
Pyeatte-Jaynes Ins. Agency
Dyer Chevrolet
Linde Barber Shop
House of Fabrics
Milton & Marcella Wrampe
E. E. Light
Atkin Rexall Pharmacy
Campbell Funeral Home
Mr. & Mrs. Glen Baker
Piqua State Bank
Wendall McMurray
Everybody's Grocery
McGinty-Coffman Dept.
Al's Jewelry
Edwin G. Reid, St. Louis, Mo.
Rex Butler, Nashville, Tenn.